रेल मंत्री (श्री बंसी लाल) : (क) से (ग) रेल मंत्रालय ने नये मीटर गेज जोन बनाने की बात को सिद्धांत रूप में स्वीकार कर लिया है जिसे उत्तर पश्चिम जोन के नाम से जाना जायेगा और जो मुख्यत: राजस्थान में पड़ेगा। तथापि, धन राशि की तंगी के कारण उत्तर पश्चिम जोन की वास्तविक स्थापना को आस्थगित कर दिया गया है। जोन की वास्तविक स्थापना करते समय इसके मुख्यालय के स्थान निर्धारण के बारे में अंतिम निर्णय लिया जायेगा।

Closing of roads to farmers in Devlali

2007. SHRI SHANKARRAO NARAYANRAO DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the traditional roads on the outskirts of the Air Force Station, Devlali in Nasik District of Maharashtra are being closed to the farmers of surrounding villages; and

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI P. V. NARASIMHA RAO): (a) and (b) These roads were constructed by the Air Force for their own use, after the land was requisitioned for defence use in 1941. The roads are in a prohibited area. However, the villagers are being permitted to use these roads freely, and only subjected to random security checks. This facility is being provided temporarily, until the State Government constructs roads outside the Air Force area for the villagers.

Road users cost study

2008. SHRIMATI USHA MALHOTRA:

DR. LOKESH CHANDRA:

Will the Minister of SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) whether a study called 'Road users cost study' with the assistance of World Bank has been made;

(b) if so, when the study was initiated and when it was completed;

(c) what are the main findings of this study;

(d) whether the Government have accepted the report; and

(e) if so, what steps have been taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING AND TRANSPORT (SHRI Z. R. ANSARI): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The agreement between the Government of India and the World Bank for conducting the Study was signed in January, 1977. The Study was completed in July, 1982.

(c) The Study has established relationships between the components of the road user cost (such as, fuel, tyres, spare parts, maintenance labour, lubricants, crew wages, fixed costs, depreciation, passengers' time value, commodity value and accident costs) and road conditions (such as, pavement width, riding quality, rise and fall and curvature), traffic conditions (such as, volume, composition and speed) and vehicles factors (such as, make, age and horse-power). The study has developed speed-flow relationships under Indian traffic and road conditions. The Study has quantified the cost of accidents and value of time of passengers and commodities in transit.

(d) and (e) The results of the Study are in the form of research findings which are being used progressively in planning, designing and maintenance of roads.

Adult illiterates in the country

2009. SHRI SHANTI TYAGI: Will the Minister of EDUCATION be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of adult illiterates in the country and their break-up, sex-wise and age group-wise; and